GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4325
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
TIGER CENSUS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are no tigers left in the 18 forest divisions in Orissa as per the 2002 tiger census and three out of eight tiger species have already disappeared from Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for tiger conservation and to identify adequate forests that could sustain the wildlife population in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a)&(b) There is only one sub-species of tiger found in India, which also occurs in Orissa. The results of 2002 tiger / leopard estimation do not indicate the presence of tigers in 18 Forest Divisions of Orissa. The basic reason for this is the adverse biotic interference in the ecological requirement of the tiger.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are as follows:

i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. 1972.
ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.
iii) Central. Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders
iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
vi) In the recent meeting of Indian Board on Wildlife, it was resolved to declare the wildlife and forest as a priority sector and fill up all the vacant posts of the frontline staff immediately and also to provide basic infrastructure necessary for efficient discharge of duties by them.
vii) The National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has identified Action Points along with Priority Projects for Strengthening the Protected Area Network.